

**ANNALS OF HEALTH LAW**  
***ADVANCE DIRECTIVE***  
Editor's Note

The *Annals of Health Law* editorial staff is proud to present, *Advance Directive*, our new online health law journal. We chose the theme of Science, Technology and the Law for our inaugural issue of *Advance Directive* to complement our Fall 2008 Symposium entitled, "Patents versus Patients: Can They Co-Exist?". With vast technological and scientific advances in medicine and the healthcare industry, the law is continually evolving and increasingly complex. Our member contributors have attacked these legal issues head-on, writing about timely topics ranging from pharmaceutical and genetic patents to electronic medical records and the emerging field of telemedicine.

Our goal is to present a wide range of student perspectives that address the intersection of health law, science and technology. This issue first looks at the controversies surrounding gene patents and their potential to impede research on disease genes and diagnostics. The first article proposes solutions such as responsive licensing policies, which could promote innovation and ensure access to genetic tests and therapies. The next article explores an important breakthrough in stem cell research: the advent of human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs). The author examines how the ability to patent iPSCs could spur innovation and research that is free of the ethical controversies surrounding human embryonic stem cells. We then address the strengths and weaknesses of the Bayh-Dole Act in facilitating technology transfer.

Our authors tackle the issue of FDA approval and regulation of investigational medical devices; and the controversy surrounding insurance coverage of untested treatments involving new, high-priced medical technologies. We then look at the use of internet health information resources to promote more informed patient

health care decisions and, as a result, better public health outcomes. Next, our authors weigh the benefits and drawbacks of electronic file storage of medical records, as well as the implications to electronic medical records that may arise from the new tort for medical privacy and confidentiality. Finally, our first issue reviews promises and challenges within the emerging field of telemedicine, from the perspectives of physicians, hospitals and academics.

I would like to thank Claire St. Aubin, our Technical Production Editor, and Tiffany Gehrke and Alexis Shrawder, our Website Senior Editors, for their invaluable contributions to *Advance Directive*, from conception to publication. Additionally, much appreciation goes to the *Annals* Executive Board--Adam Larson, Angela Epolito and Tamara Forys--for their editorial support; and to all of our member contributors for their creativity, hard work and perseverance in putting together this first issue. Finally, our faculty advisors, Professors Lawrence Singer and John Blum, deserve a special acknowledgment for their continued support of *Annals* and for their encouragement to launch this online journal.

We hope you enjoy this first issue of *Advance Directive*.

Sincerely,

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Editor-in-Chief  
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